

APR 10 2007

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Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1-7 for clarification, and refer to Fig. 1 and its corresponding description in the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,513,060 to Nixon et al.; claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,455 to Fuisz. Applicants amend claims 1-7 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner continued to rely upon the description in Nixon et al. of a plurality of monitoring computers as alleged disclosure of the claimed invention. The cited portions of Nixon et al. only include description of separate monitoring units, "each located on a different computer in [a] distributed directory," for monitoring information resources, such as corresponding host computers and supported websites via the Internet.

In other words, Nixon et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

"[a] packet communication system communicable to one or more terminals, said packet communication system comprising:
an editing communication unit, which when there is a change in a communicability state of said terminals, edits and transmits information on the communicability state of said terminals,

wherein the packet communication system is accommodated in a router device and the router device monitors a communicability state of said one or more terminals," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the claim 1, together with claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Nixon et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

Regarding claim 7, the Examiner cited portions of Nixon et al. that only include description of a central manager that reads, configures, and performs overall monitoring of other units. Such portions, therefore, do not include any disclosure of the claimed features of receiving e-mail instead of a user of a terminal that is in an incommunicable state and transferring the received e-mail to a desired transfer destination. The Examiner referred to description of a report unit that allegedly is "in charge of sending e-mails." Page 4, lines 17-18 of the Office Action. "Sending e-mails" still fails to disclose the aforementioned claimed receiving and transferring features of the invention.

In other words, Nixon et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

"[a] packet communication system accommodating one or more terminals and comprising an agent reception and transfer unit, which when at least one of said terminals is in an incommunicable state receives e-mail instead of a user of a terminal that is in the incommunicable state and transfers the received e-mail to a desired transfer destination," as recited in claim 7. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the claim 7, together with claim 8 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Nixon et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

The Examiner relied upon Fuisz as a combining reference to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 9-10. As such, the addition of this reference would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Nixon et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-10 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons.

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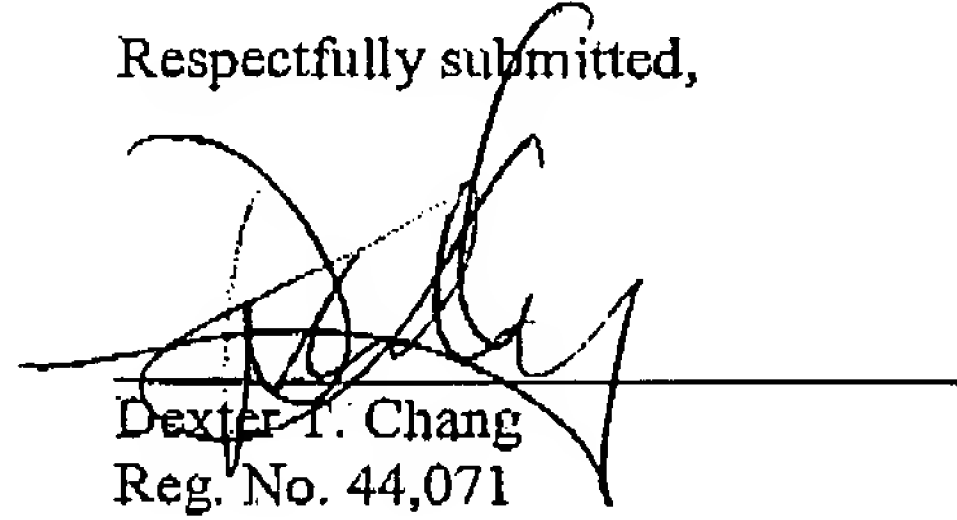
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this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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